

# Cambridge Chronicle

Saturday, June 30, 1860

## BURGLARY AND MURDER

We are called upon to record the death of officer William Loughrey, caused by one of the most daring and desperate characters that ever graduated from the State Prison, he having left that institution about two weeks since. The burglar's name is James Hurley.

Soon after one o'clock on Tuesday morning, the shoe store of Mr. Josiah Sawyer, on Brookline Street was broken into through a rear door. Mr. Sawyer – whose house adjoins the store – was awakened by hearing a noise at the back door of his store, and on looking out noticed a light flash in the window of his store. He spoke and inquired, "What do you want?" The light was instantly extinguished, and two men ran from his store, and springing into a covered buggy, drove off up the street. Mr. Sawyer gave no further alarm.

Officer Benjamin F. Briden saw the buggy passing down the street, and subsequently observed it turn about and come back, passing him and going onto Main Street. In the meantime Mr. Sawyer came out and informed the officer of the circumstance, and also that he found a newspaper which had doubtless been used by the rogues as a light in the store, as it was partially burnt. The rogues obtained from fifty to seventy-five cents in change from the money drawer, which they forced open.

Upon continuing his round on Main Street, after his interview with Mr. Sawyer, officer Briden discovered a light in the newspaper and periodical store of Mr. T. Work, and on going up to the door – which has a window in it – saw two men inside, each with a paper torch in one hand. They were ransacking the counter and shelves. Having no doubt that they were the rogues, and not feeling inclined to attempt an arrest of both, he drew his revolver and fired twice through the door, partly for the purpose of intimidating the rogues and partly to raise an alarm and obtain assistance. The men rushed out of the store past him, when he discharged two more shots at them, and snapped his

pistol a third time, but the cap only exploded. One of the men, as he gained the middle of Main Street, partially fell, seemingly crippled, and exclaiming "my God!" He soon recovered his upright position and ran towards Cambridge bridge. His companion in the meantime ran in another direction.

Officer Bridden started in pursuit of the one who ran towards the bridge, sprung his rattle and cried for help. He met officer William Loughrey whom he directed to watch at the bridge and see that no suspicious person passed, while he would look out for anyone in the other direction. In about twenty minutes afterwards, Bridden heard that Loughrey had been stabbed.

It appears that Loughrey observed a man besmeared with blood, approaching the bridge, and he at once arrested him on suspicion of being one of the persons upon Bridden had fired. The fellow, who gave his name as James Hurley, fought the officer most desperately. This occurred on the southerly side of the street, opposite the Broadway House. Mrs. Beard, the wife of Mr. Charles R. Beard, who was awakened by the cry of "murder," was the first on the spot and gave the alarm by crying murder at the top of her voice. Mr. J.C. Martain, keeper of the Broadway House, Mr. Geo., W. Waitt, Mr. Mitchell, and others were soon on the spot, having been aroused by the cry of "murder," "he is killing me," Ec. They found Loughrey and Hurley upon the ground, Loughrey being uppermost, but Hurley having possession of his billy. Mr. Martain wrenched the billy away from Hurley, who during the fight had managed to open his clasp knife and inflict several cuts upon the face, arms and body of Mr. Loughrey.

Hurley was speedily bound with a rope and guarded until Mr. Loughrey, who was quite exhausted, had been carried into the house of Mr. Mitchell, by Mr. Waitt, Mrs. Beard and one other, whose name we did not learn. A physician was called, and every attention was paid to the wounded officer by Mr. Mitchell and family.

The officer having been properly provided for, Mr. Mitchell and his son, with another man, procured an express wagon, into which they deposited their bound prisoner, Hurley, and tying him firmly to the wagon, drew him by hand to the Police Station near by. Subsequently he was removed in a wagon with a horse to the Police Office in City Hall, a distance of about a mile.

Upon examination by a physician who was called to him, it was ascertained that one ball from officer Bridden's pistol had passed through Hurley's mouth from one corner to the other, knocking out several of his teeth and inflicting very severe injury. Another ball, it was found, took effect on his left arm above the elbow, breaking it. Notwithstanding the severe injuries, he fought officer Loughrey with the desperation of a demon. A complaint was made against him for assaulting officer Loughrey with intent to kill, and Justice Ladd ordered him to be fully committed for examination on Tuesday next. He was accordingly conveyed to the jail in East Cambridge.

Officer Loughrey was soon removed to his own house in a completely prostrated condition from loss of blood, where he continued under the best medical treatment until he expired between 3 and 4 o'clock.

Hurley is sometimes known by the name of Howard. He belongs in North street in Boston and two or three weeks since was discharged from State Prison where he had served a sentence for robbery.

The melancholy circumstance we have related have deprived an interesting and worthy family of its head- a good husband and a kind father; - and an estimable citizen. When the bullets from Bridden's pistol began to fly about the ears of the burglar, he fled in terror, but immediately after he confronted Loughrey, and because that officer was unarmed, the assassin murdered him with a clasp-knife. Had Loughrey been armed, *as he should have been*, he might have been living at this hour.

This event has led to some discussion among our citizens upon the question whether watchmen, police officers, and others have a legal right to "bear arms." The Constitution (see part I, art. 17,) which secures to "the people" the "right to keep and to bear arms," should be conclusive upon this point; for we presume that a watchman or a police officer does not, by virtue of the office which he holds, cease to be one of "the people!" The only qualification of this "right," which our laws tolerate is, that on the complaint of any person "having reasonable cause to fear an injury," the dangerous party may be required, not to give up his weapons, but to "find sureties to keep the peace." (Rev., Stat. Ch. 170, sec. 15.) The City of Boston, at their own cost, furnish weapons of the most effective description to some of their police officers, and all

of them are allowed to, and they generally do, carry arms. The police on this side of the river often have occasion to deal with the identical rogues who cost the Boston police most trouble. When the villains find the attentions of the police of the metropolis uncomfortable they cross the river and try their luck here. Let them have a proper reception. An officer who cannot safely be trusted with a deadly weapon is unfit for the important and delicate duties of a watchman. If the “powers that be” will not sustain and encourage our watchmen and police officers in the performance of their arduous duties, let the sovereign people put in being such “powers” as will do it.

Another question has also been discussed; whether the officer who found the burglars in the building, and fired at them from the outside, he not being at the instant in peril, should not rather have procured assistance, cut off the escape of the offenders, and arrested them. A watchman at midnight, unaided, who meets with a gang of burglars, he knows not how many probably armed, engaged in plundering a store, is not perhaps very happily situated nor is he in precisely the best state of mind, to determine very nice questions in metaphysics or morals; and although we would by no means encourage recklessness or lawlessness or disregard of human life, we venture to say that if a shot from the street, under such circumstances, should result fatally – as it did *not* in this case – and a grand jury should be found to verdict and a petit jury to convict the offender (?) by virtue of some antiquated decision of a defunct judge, printed in a dusty old black-letter law-book some time subsequent to the flood, or “drawn from the moldy rolls of “Noah’s ark” – we can hardly believe that the watchman would be hung for it, if we happen to be one of the jury.

Our city, being situated in close proximity to the metropolis, where desperate violators of law bound, has from this case suffered frequently and enormously from their depredations, and now is not the time to discuss nice questions nor to debate efforts to meet these wretches in a proper manner, nor to discourage those who for a paltry compensation, while our citizens are asleep, are willing to take the risk, - sometimes it may be fatal – of loss of life which is incidental to the duty of a night watchman. Those who are willing to assume the risk of an attempt at burglary, insularism, or

murder may expect no better treatment hereafter than they received heretofore, and may govern themselves accordingly. Watchmen may legally “bear arms,” and *use them* whenever there is proper occasion.

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## CORONERS INQUEST

The jury of Inquest summoned by Coroner Marston of this city, to investigate the circumstances attending the murder of William Loughrey, police officer, by James Hurley, on Tuesday morning last, had a hearing on – Wednesday afternoon at the City Hall. The jury was composed of the following gentlemen: Mr. L. Smith (foreman); V.S. Holt, Joseph P. Howlett, and J.D. Nutting.

The first witness called was Dr. Thomas H. Pinkerton, of Boston. He testified that he was called to attend the deceased on Tuesday morning at the house of Mr. William Mitchell. He was wounded in several places on his arms, shoulders, and head. He was quite faint from the loss of blood. There was a bad wound on the left arm which bled for two hours. The witness thought the wounds were sufficient to cause death by loss of blood. The deceased was unable to make any statement in regard to the assault.

Mr. George W. Waite was next called. He testified that on Tuesday morning between one and two o’clock, he was awakened by the cry of murder. He opened the window and asked who was there? Mr. Loughrey said “It is me, Loughrey.” He dressed himself, and ran to the spot, and found Loughrey on top of a man, holding him down. Mr. Martain came up just then to assist Loughrey, who told them to be careful, as the other man had a knife and also his billy. They took Loughrey off, and two or three others came up and carried him into Mr. Mitchell’s house, while the witness and Mr. Martain secured the other man. The Boston police came over just then, and said they had heard cries of murder on the other side. They proposed to get a Doctor, and one of them returned to Boston to obtain one. Mr. Briden came along then, and they took the man to the lock-up. They found a clasp knife near by. The man resisted and struck Mr.

Martain several times with the billy while he was being secured.

Benjamin F. Bridden, police officer, was next called. He stated that he saw a light in Mr. Thomas Work's shop, about two o'clock Tuesday morning. He saw two men inside, each holding a paper torch. He saw that they were persons who did not belong there. He went up the front door steps and the men appeared to have heard him, as they startled. He took his revolver from his pocket and took aim at one of them through the window and fired. They started toward the door, and he fired again. They ran out of the door then, and one of them came towards him, and he raised his pistol and snapped it at him. They then turned and ran into the street and he fired two more shots at them while in sight. Witness thought that one of the shots took effect in the shop, and one when he fired in the street; Cade's clerk came along, and witness sent him down on a butcher's wagon, which was going towards the bridge, to notify Mr. Loughrey, as the two went in that direction. Witness went himself on foot and met Mr. Loughrey before he got to the bridge, and told him the whole story, and gave a description of the parties. Mr. Loughrey said he would look out for them at the end of the bridge. Witness returned up the street, and about half an hour afterwards he heard the cry of "watch" and a boy came running up to him saying that Mr. Loughrey had been stabbed. Went to the spot as soon as possible and met several men taking Hurley to the station house in a wagon. He was searched at the station house and papers and books were found in his pockets, which had been taken from Mr. Work's shop.

Dr. Pinkerton was recalled, and testified that he dressed the wounds of the prisoner, Hurley. The prisoner stated that he was shot at two or three times; said he was shot once in the shop.

Dr. H.G. Clark of Boston, who made a postmortem examination of the body of William Loughrey, gave his testimony in writing. He gave as the result that the death of William Loughrey was caused by the wounds produced by a knife, and by no other cause.

Dr. Charles H. Allen, of this city, who assisted in the examination, testified to the truth of the report made by Dr. Clark.

Dr. Anson Hooker of this city, who attended Mr. Loughrey, testified substantially the same as Dr. Pinkerton. He thought Mr. Loughrey died from loss

of blood. He (Loughrey) did not make any statement to him in regard to the assault.

Mrs. Caroline F. Beard – who was the first person on the spot, and who gave the alarm – testified that she was awakened on Tuesday morning about two o'clock by the cry of murder. She was alone in the house and she ran down to the front door and asked who was there. Some one cried for help and she called for Mr. Loughrey. The man cried out, "I am Loughrey. He is murdering me." She ran out and found Mr. Loughrey lying in the street holding the man down. He was covered with blood. Witness cried for help as loud as she could and tried to take Mr. Loughrey away from the other man. He said, "don't let the man go." Mr. Waitt and Mr. Martain came up then and raised Mr. Loughrey up and secured the other man.

Susan H. Waitt was awakened by the cries of the two men, and went to the spot soon after Mrs. Beard. Her testimony did not differ materially from the former witness.

Mr. John C. Martain was one of the first who arrived at the scene of conflict; and he testified substantially the same as Mr. Waitt.

Mrs. Waitt was recalled, and testified that she could identify the man who was struggling with Mr. Loughrey.

A son of Mr. Martain corroborated the testimony of his father.

Mr. E.G. Baldwin, a Boston policeman, stated that he heard the cries of murder in Boston. He went over the bridge and arrived at the spot as two men were taking Loughrey off of Hurley.

Hearing this testimony before a jury, after a short deliberation, they returned the following verdict. That the said, William Loughrey came to death as consequence of wounds inflicted with a knife in the hands of James Hurley, otherwise called James Howard, on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 1860 at about two o'clock, A.M.; and that the said Hurley or Howard did willfully kill and murder the said Loughrey.

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## **DEATH OF WILLIAM LOUGHREY**

The sudden and tragical death of William Loughrey, has created a most deep and intense interest among all classes of our fellow citizens. Few men were

generally more loved and respected. His memory will long be cherished in this community for his many excellent traits of character, both as a citizen and an officer of the city.

Mr. Loughrey was born in Fintona, Ireland, in the year 1815. His parents being poor, he left the parental roof at the age of seventeen and came to this country with a view of finding a better field for employment, and of improving his worldly condition. He soon found employment, and at the age of eighteen, engaged himself as an apprentice to the late John Dallinger of this city, to the hatting business. When he became of age, he continued in the employ of Messrs. Dallinger and Son, until within about three years, employing his time between them and the City of Cambridge, devoting the night-time as a watchman, and a large portion of the day-time at work, at his trade. But since the re-organization of the police force, some three years since, he has given his whole time to the service of the city.

Among Mr. Loughrey's many excellent traits, none stood more prominent than his faithfulness to his employers. His conscientiousness might almost be called excessive. In the performance of his duties, he was always calm and collected whatever emergency he might be placed. To show his conscientiousness, we will relate a little incident that occurred some ten years since. While on his beat, in the dead of the night, he came across a man with a bundle of goods in his arms, which he had every reason to suppose were stolen. He ordered the man to stop: when he instantly dropped his bundle and fled, Mr. Loughrey in close pursuit. The man finding he was likely to be taken, turned round and snapped a pistol at him; upon that, his pursuer snapped his in return, neither exploding, and the man was secured. He has been heard to express his joy that neither of the pistols exploded, for he could never forgive himself for having taken the life of a fellow-being though the act might be perfectly justifiable. He never was known to carry a deadly weapon from that day. In his manners he was modest, refined, unobtrusive, gentle as a woman, though his heart was as brave as a lion's, and he was an utter stranger to fear. He probably passed through more terrible rencontres with desperate characters, during the fourteen years he had been in public service, than any other man, yet he seldom ever alluded to his own feats of daring though he

would bestow full praise on his brother officers for their activity and faithfulness.

But Mr. Loughrey's character as a religious man, shines the brightest. Twenty-five years since he became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which connection he remained until his death, a most exemplary member, and did honor to his profession. The cause of religion was evidently dear to his heart, and he acted, no doubt, in his intercourse with his fellow men, on its holy principles, though he never obtruded them on unwilling ears, still his daily life and example evidenced that he was a man who had been taught of God. By the death of this good man, a worthy family are brought to mourn the loss of an excellent husband and father. In his intercourse with them, he was ever kind and gentle, yet they were taught to be strictly obedient to his wishes, while governed more by his example than the use of any severe discipline. He leaves a wife and four children. One grown up to womanhood, and the other three, between the ages of eight to eighteen, who will long cherish the memory, and, we trust follow the example of a most excellent husband and father.

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*To the Editor of the Cambridge Chronicle –*

Some of our citizens censure in unmeasured terms, the conduct of Officer Bridden, on Tuesday morning last; and some have gone so far as to intimate that he should be discharged from office, by the Mayor and Aldermen. For what? For assisting to capture the most notorious and desperate villain that has infested the highway for years, - a graduate of the State Prison of the highest rank. Is it to be supposed that Bridden would enter Work's premises against three or even two armed burglars; in a fool hardy manner and throw away his life? If he goes for assistance, he has to go so far that the deed is done, before he gets back as I shall presently show. He sees what he supposes to be burglars; he takes the responsibility like any officer who is armed with civil process. If he shoots the wrong man he pays the penalty. If the civil officer attaches the wrong property he commits a trespass and pays the civil penalty likewise. In these days of lenient punishment and sentences, when every crime from petty larceny to murder appears venial in the eyes of the State and City Governments,

when the veriest demons of hell are let loose on the community, when the hand of every villain is ready to strike even to death the citizens or policemen, officers should be ready to act. Shall a man be given to understand when he is appointed on the police that he is to give away his life without any means of defense? If poor Loughrey had been armed, his life would not have been sacrificed. The immense territory over which the officers of Cambridge have to roam, leaves them separated at great distances from each other; and if they are not perfectly fearless and resolute they are in great danger. The penuriousness of the City Government regarding the paucity of the night police, has been proverbial for years. For instance, Bridden's beat is from Brookline corner Main to the River, and from Pleasant corner Main to the River, and I am informed that at East Cambridge a Ward of 8000 Inhabitants, there are two night police! – and had they the lungs of Stentor when each one is on the utmost verge of his beat, he could not be heard by the other. The whole of Pleasant street might be robbed while Bridden is on Brookline street and *vice versa*.

If our night police are to be discharged for capturing notorious villains, and are forbidden to carry arms to defend us, and themselves, let us have that issue in the next election, and, ascertain whether we shall be the guardians of our own hearths, or whether we shall have sufficient force and resolute men, who shall have a fair chance given them for capture and defense.

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*The Death of Officer Loughrey.* – The Resolutions relating to the death of Officer Loughrey, coming down from the Board of Aldermen, Messrs, Livermore, Cade, and Farnham, spoke in high praise of the deceased, and paid a hearty tribute to his many virtues. The Resolutions were unanimously adopted. Chamberland offered an order that the sum of \$500 be paid to the widow of Officer Loughrey, and that the Mayor be authorized to draw his order for the same, to be charged to the appropriate for Police and Watch. Under a suspension of the rules the order was adopted.

The Council then adjourned.

*Death of Wm. Loughrey* – The board unanimously concurred in the appropriation of \$500 on aid of the family of the late William Loughrey.

A lot in the Cambridge Cemetery was also voted to the family.

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*Death of William Loughrey.* – Alderman Richardson presented the following Resolutions:-

*Whereas*, William Loughrey, an officer of this City, while in the faithful discharge of his duty, has met with a sudden and violent death,-

*Resolved*, That by this calamity, we are called upon to mourn the loss of a capable and efficient officer, a trust-worthy friend, and a good citizen.

*Resolved*, That we tender our deepest sympathies to the family of the deceased for this sudden affliction, and that as a tribute of respect for his memory, we will attend his funeral.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be entered on the City records, and that a copy of the same be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That as a testimonial of our appreciation of the services of the deceased, his salary to the end of the present year be paid to his family.

Alderman Richardson spoke to the Resolutions, and was followed by his Honor the Mayor, both alluding to the eminent fidelity of the deceased in the discharge of his official duties, and to his private virtues as a man and a citizen.

Under a suspension of the rules, the above resolves, as also the order instructing the City Messenger to provide carriages for the Government to attend the funeral were unanimously adopted.

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## **I.O. of O.F. Lodge**

The regular meeting of Friendship Lodge I.O. of O. F. held on the evening of July 9<sup>th</sup>, the following Preamble and Resolutions were passed.

*Whereas* It has pleased God, in the inscrutable and mysterious disposition of his providence to permit the death of our well beloved Brother. WILLIAM LOUGHREY, by the hand of violence while in the faithful discharge of his duty as an officer of this city, and in the defense of law and order. Therefore –

*Resolved*, That in the death of Brother Loughrey, the members of Friendship Lodge feel that they have lost a true and faithful Brother and firm friend; one who, by his purity of life and integrity of character, exemplified the principles and spirit of our Order.

*Resolved*, That not only as Odd Fellows, but as citizens, we mourn the death of brother Loughrey; believing that the City Government of Cambridge has lost a faithful and efficient officer, and the community an upright honest man.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathize with the bereaved widow and fatherless children of our deceased brother; that we offer them our condolence and commend them to the kind and protecting care that Being who has promised to be the widow's God, and father to the fatherless. And may the influence of that Christian faith which our brother cherished, sustain and support them in this their hour of trial and affliction, and enable them to bow with humble submission to the Divine will; and, with a firm reliance upon and trust and confidence in God, believe that all the dispensations of his providence, however dark and mysterious they may appear, are designed for, and will eventuate in, our final and ultimate good.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these Resolutions, signed by the N.G., and attested by the Recording Secretary, be transmitted to the family of our deceased brother; and that they be entered at large upon the Records of this Lodge.

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### **HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND JAIL. –**

There are now (July 5) confined in the house of Correction at East Cambridge, 143 men and 30 women – total 173, which is far below the average number for the year, but is nearly the same as in the corresponding month last year.

In jail there are 10 men and 4 women awaiting examination and trial; of that number are James Hurley and William Thompson, who are charged with the crimes of murder. It will be recollected that Thompson was engaged in a fatal affray on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, at South Reading, with William Simmons, who was stabbed, and died of his wounds a few hours after. He is now awaiting his trial at the next session of the Supreme Court. His wife visited him on Thursday for the first time

since his arrest. The meeting took place in the back Jail Office. Simmons was much affected and wept like a child.

Hurley, who killed watchman Loughrey, is slowly recovering from his wounds. He is to have an examination before Justice Ladd, of the Police Court on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

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## **FUNERAL OF MR. LOUGHREY**

The funeral services of Mr. Loughrey were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, East Cambridge, on the afternoon of Thursday. The house was crowded to excess, while probably – such was the deep feeling of the people – three times as many more stood in the entry way and street opposite during the services. The exercises were as follow: 1. Reading select portions of Scripture; 2. Chant by the choir; 3. Address by Rec. Mr. Howe, the pastor; 4. Prayer; 5. Anthem.

Among the different bodies present were His Honor, Mayor Green, and Alderman; the President and members of the Common Council; members of the Police Department; members of the Fire Companies, Nos, 2, 3, 4 and 6; Hook and Ladder Company, and I.O. of O.F. Lodge; all of whom followed the remains to the grave.

The services were short yet appropriate to the occasion. There was hardly a countenance in all this great crowd that was not expressive of deep sorrow, they felt that a friend had been taken by death that they greatly loved, and that the community had suffered a loss by this bereavement that could not easily be filled.

Appropriate services were also held at the grave by members of Friendship Lodge of I.O. of O.F. His remains were placed in the receiving tomb at the Cambridge Cemetery.

## **AUTOPSY**

Dr. Henry G. Clark testifies as follows: that he has this day made a postmortem examination of the body of William Loughrey at his house, Cambridgeport, and reports

1. That there were various cuts, viz: - One on the outside of each arm, just below the shoulder with severe character, from one to two inches in diameter, externally much more extensive Internally being three inches deep and dividing all the muscular parts to the bone, and penetrating beyond, nearly through the arteries.

2. A severe cut through the bottom part of the right ear, and penetrating for an inch by the side of the bone into the triangular space in front of it.

3. Several lesser cuts, the principal of which was inside the left shoulder, just under the clavicle and was infiltrating the blood extensively under the muscle [pectoral.] Others were on the tip of each shoulder, one behind the left elbow and at several points about the face; the fingers of the right hand showed some contused wounds.

4. The scalp and periosteum were ecchymosed from blows at several points at the upper, right and back parts.

5. Internally, the right kidney contained an old sac or cyst. The right lung was slightly adherent at the top, and the intestines were a little mottled. The stomach was unusually distended, and contained a large quantity of fluid. Besides these abnormalities there was no disease or injury. The death was occasioned by the wounds above described, and by no other cause.      –      HENRY G. CLARK, M.D.